II.   AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of conducting non-authentication tasks using an authentication system of a workstation, comprising the steps of:

loading a task module to the authentication system of the workstation; ~~and~~

conducting a non-authentication task using the task module; and

modifying the authentication system during the conducting step without requiring a reboot.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of conducting a non-authentication task includes:

logging onto the workstation using the task module as requested by an upgrade; and

automatically upgrading an application on the workstation.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of displaying a message indicating an upgrade status.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of sending a response to the message to the upgrade from a user of the workstation.

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5.   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of logging on to the workstation occurs without user interaction.

6.   (Cancelled)

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of removing the task module when the non-authentication task is complete.

8.   (Cancelled)

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of conducting the non-authentication task includes displaying a message from a requester.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of sending a response to the message to the requester from a user of the workstation.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of conducting the non-authentication task includes logging onto the workstation using the task module as requested by a requester.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the loading step includes a requester instructing a task module loader of the authentication system to load the task module.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the task module is in a workstation registry.

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14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the task module is delivered via a command pipe.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of loading occurs without interrupting workstation operation.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1,wherein the authentication system comprises a graphical identification and authentication dynamic link library.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for using an authentication system of a workstation to conducting conduct a non-authentication task tasks using an authentication system of a workstation, the computer program product comprising:

a task module configured to conduct a non-authentication task using the authentication system and including a logon system configured to conduct a userless logon of the workstation; and

a task module loader configured to load the task module to the authentication system of the workstation.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 18 17, wherein the task module loader is stored in the authentication system of the workstation.

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19. (Original) The computer program product of claim 18, wherein the task module is loadable from a registry of the workstation.

20. (Original) The computer program product of claim 18, wherein the task module is loadable from an external requester.

21. (Original) The computer program product of claim 18, further comprising a request receiver configured to receive a request to load the task module from a requester.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original) The computer program product of claim 18, wherein the task module includes a display system configured to display a message on a sign-on screen of the workstation.

24. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the display system is further configured to send a response to a message from a workstation user to a requester.

25.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for conducting non-authentication tasks using an .
authentication system of a workstation, the apparatus comprising:

a task module configured to conduct a non-authentication task using the authentication
system and including a logon system configured to conduct a userless logon of the workstation;

a task module loader resident in the authentication system configured to load the task
module; and

a requester configured to instruct the task module loader to load the task module and to
instruct the authentication system how to activate the task module.

26.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the requester is one of an upgrade system
and an upgrade program.

27.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the requester is external to the
workstation.

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28.   (Currently Amended) A workstation, comprising:

a processor; and

memory, having a software program stored therein, and executable by the processor, the

software program including:

an authentication system;

a task module configured to conduct a non-authentication task using the

authentication system and including a logon system configured to conduct a userless logon of the

workstation;

a task module loader resident in the authentication system configured to load the

task module; and

a requester configured to instruct the task module loader to load the task module

and to instruct the authentication system how to activate the task module.

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